

McGregor W. Scott

United States Attorney
Eastern District of California

Sacramento 501 I. Street, Ste 10-100 Sacramento CA 95814 Tel (916) 554-2700 TTY (916) 554-2855 **NEWS RELEASE**

Fresno 2500 Tulare St., Suite 4401 Fresno, CA 93721 Tel (559) 497-4000 TTY (559) 497-4500

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE **October 1, 2007**

Contact: Rosemary Shaul (916) 554-2802

http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/cae

FOR NEARLY 35 YEARS, A SACRAMENTO WOMAN USED TWO SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS TO STEAL OVER \$91,000 IN FEDERAL GOVERNMENT BENEFITS

SACRAMENTO--United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that MARGARET B. WILLIAMS, 73, of Sacramento, California, pled guilty today before United States District Judge William B. Shubb to stealing United States Social Security Administration funds.

This case is the product of an investigation by the United States Social Security Administration, Office of the Inspector General.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Michelle Rodriguez, who is prosecuting the case, WILLIAMS admitted that for nearly 35 years she collected Social Security Administration disability benefits under her true Social Security number while working under a fraudulently acquired second Social Security number. Specifically, in 1953 WILLIAMS was assigned (based on valid identification information) a true Social Security number that she used to work and then to collect Title II disability benefits until 1988. In 1971, WILLIAMS was issued a second Social Security number by using a different name, false place of birth, false parent names and a false date of birth. Beginning in 1973, WILLIAMS began working under the second social security number while she collected federal disability benefits under her true social security number.

WILLIAMS' scheme was uncovered when she tried to obtain SSA retirement benefits under her falsely obtained second number. The Social Security Administration's investigation techniques, using improved computer analysis, helped to uncover WILLIAMS' fraud. Today, WILLIAMS admitted that she unlawfully received \$91,077.30 in federal government disability benefits. According to the plea agreement in this case, WILLIAMS will make full restitution to the United States for her theft of Social Security Administration funds.

WILLIAMS is scheduled to be sentenced on December 10, 2007. The maximum penalty she faces is five years imprisonment, a three-year term of supervised release, restitution, and a fine of up to \$250,000. However, the actual sentence will be determined at the discretion of the court after consideration of the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, which take into account a number of variables, and any applicable statutory sentencing factors.